

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /067 W
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R 261733Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8663

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02940

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, PK

SUBJECT: UK-PAKISTAN RELATIONS: BHUTTO IS AGAIN RE-
FUSED OXFORD HONORARY DEGREE

REF: LONDON 2286

1. WHAT APPEARS TO BE FINAL CHAPTER IN SAGA OF OXFORD
UNIVERSITY HONORARY DEGREE FOR BHUTTO WAS WRITTEN
FEBRUARY 25, WHEN THE OXFORD CONGREGATION AGAIN VOTED
239 TO 183 AGAINST CONFERRING HONORARY DEGREE ON
PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO. SECOND VOTE WAS TAKEN
AFTER FEBRUARY 11 VOTE OF 155 TO 153 HAD BEEN DECLARED A
TIE DUE TO DISCOVERY OF TWO INELIGIBLE VOTES. LATEST
VOTE APPEARS DEFINITIVE.

2. FCO SOUTH ASIAN DEPARTMENT HEAD CHALMERS AGAIN
VOICED TO US HMG'S REGRET AT THIS DEVELOPMENT. HE CON-
FIDED THAT BHUTTO HAD BEEN CHARMED BY ORIGINAL SOUNDINGS
FROM OXFORD ON HONORARY DEGREE. HE HAD PLANNED TRIP TO
BRITAIN TO ACCEPT IT AND HAD SPOKEN OF SETTING UP A CHAIR
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OF ISLAMIC STUDIES IN HONOR OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF

JINNAH'S BIRTH (1876). HMG HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO MEET-
INGS BHUTTO MIGHT HAVE HAD WITH WILSON AND OTHERS, TO PUT
PERSONAL CAPSTONE ON UK'S IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH
PAKISTAN.

3. NOW ALL THAT HAS VANISHED WITH THE WIND. BRITISH
HAVE NO DOUBT THAT BHUTTO WILL BE HURT AND ANGERED. HE
IS UNLIKELY TO DISCRIMINATE IN HIS FEELINGS BETWEEN
OXFORD UNIVERSITY AND HMG.

SPIERS

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To: STATE
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